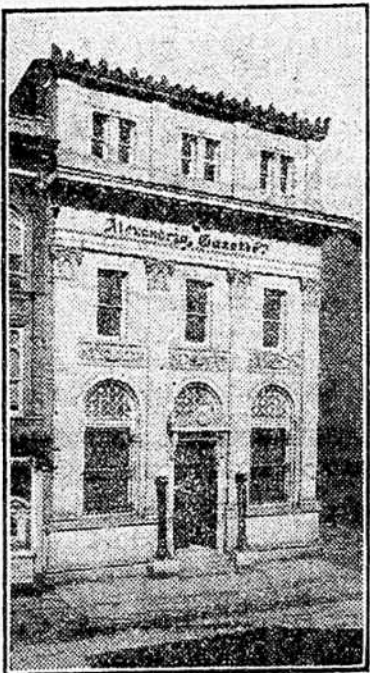


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TAFT'S RENOMINATION.

President Taft announces that he will not withdraw as a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. That's not surprising; but it is a bit interesting and significant that the declaration should have been deemed necessary. It all goes to at least suggest that either strong pressure has of late been brought upon the President to quit the field—or that the Roosevelt menace is having more or less effect upon his temperamental poise and his confidence in his ability to secure the Republican nomination without a rather stiff fight. In contemplating the history of the Republican party, it is worthy of note that with one exception no Republican President has ever developed as much opposition to his re-nomination as Mr. Taft has apparently succeeded in doing. There was Lincoln, who easily succeeded himself. And Grant also. Hayes didn't offer for a re-nomination. Garfield was assassinated in the early part of his first term. Harrison had a contest for his second nomination, but not a very strenuous one. Then came McKinley who was enthusiastically endorsed by a unanimous re-nomination, and after him, Roosevelt had no trouble in becoming his party's standard bearer for an additional Presidential term. Arthur alone failed of re-nomination, or rather of being nominated to succeed himself, he having inherited the Presidency as result of being Vice President when Garfield met untimely death.

OLD HOMES DISAPPEARING.

The grand old "before the war" homes, steeped in romance and dear to the heart of the children of the old South, are fast going, says the Birmingham News. Set in a grove of oaks, the big house with its imposing columns, ample verandas, and its air of hospitality and cheer, will be no more. Some of these old mansions have fallen into wreck and ruin; hundreds have been burned. The surviving ones are relics of an age that is past.

For several years there has been a movement in the South for smaller farms. This movement has been constantly accelerated. And it means much for the people of this section. The old plantations were manageable only when one person was willing to pass his life in the employ of another.

The South is becoming more utilitarian. Descendants of those cavaliers who charged with Rupert and melted their plate to support the tottering throne of the unworthy Stuart have scanned their lesson well. Life is activity, hurry and turmoil. It would still be an elysian existence forever to loiter in the shade and yell to Pompey for another julep—but it is no longer practicable.

This month will see two of the fine old plantation homes of Barbours county go under the hammer. Historic Roselands and the splendid Pugh estate alike are to be sold. Some of these days when the South gets enormously wealthy again the grand old times may be revived.

WASN'T IT TOUGH?

To the Editor of the Gazette:

It is said that an idle brain is the devil's workshop. In behalf of over a thousand Alexandrians who travel to Washington to do their daily chores, I want to say that a delayed train for nearly three hours in this swift age of ours is entitled to equal distinction. That accidents happen over which corporations have no control, we have no doubt; but when a company runs a railroad, the fare on which is the highest known, if the people in charge will not get a remedy in cases like that of yesterday, they should be made to do it. From 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon until after 6, hundreds of people who could not get in the railroad station in Washington shivered in the cold and old Boreas whistled and hats flew and men swore. About 5:40, seeing no relief in sight, a great many hied themselves to the ferry, that institution to which some of our generous citizens gave birth, and found that the 6 o'clock boat was over half an hour late. It came, however, and the half frozen travelers went aboard only to meet equally frigid conditions. After waiting an hour and seeing the steam, which should have been used for the comfort of the passengers, ascend to the heavens, being wasted in an attempt to thaw something besides the passengers, we were informed that the boat would not make the trip as the rudder was frozen. Dejected and disgusted we again sought the train and about 8:30 landed in Alexandria, our beloved city, which is about to annex other territory. It is to be hoped that when this happens, and we believe it will, that our people will also annex a humane railroad company who will not let its commuters seek watch boxes, cigar stores and saloons for comfort, on account of its own negligence. An easy remedy was in sight yesterday. The passengers could have easily been carried to the point where the accident occurred and transferred to cars on this end, thus saving immense suffering and perhaps dreadful consequences to some. The many happy new years spoken a few days ago were forgotten yesterday, and the temper of the people underwent a terrible change.

Mr. Editor, in behalf of and on request of at least a hundred of your subscribers, and in order, if possible, to convince the railroad company that it is cruel to treat its people in this manner, I am yours, one of the sufferers.

H.

The successful substitution by surgery of the kidney of a dead man for that of a diseased one in a living man is a triumph for medical science which opens up great possibilities. Perhaps in the next half of this wonderful century we will have human beings getting repaired as they are damaged, as we do expensive machinery. As the world progresses the impossibilities of one age become the ordinary daily facts of the succeeding one.

The president of a western railroad has issued a pamphlet of instruction to the employees of the road in which they are impressed with the justice and necessity of being courteous to the passengers of the road. How halcyon must be the peace of the transportation atmosphere which is never broken with the rude command to "step lively."

We see by the papers that a post card has reached its destination after having been 41 years on the way. It would be interesting to learn how many postmasters and postmistresses have stopped to read it.

An old circus acrobat saved his life when his feet were frozen by walking on his hands. There would be a certain utility, too, in being an Indian rubber man.

Bob White is prettier in the open field, in picture, poetry and song than in a game bag. Man's desire to pursue and kill must have descended from the savages.

How would you like to run against one of Mr. Edison's re-inforced concrete rocking chairs as you stumbls through the parlor on a dark night in search of a drink at the kitchen tap?

Another bloodless duel has been fought in Paris. The system has been jeered, but it would be a great gain to humanity if it could be extended to bring about bloodless wars.

Each battleship requires a scout, four destroyers and an eighth interest in a repair-ship—that is, the battleship of the present type.

Genuine hard cider seems to be as rare as genuine maple syrup. There are old men who have never seen either.

Europe has had an earthquake. A new and infernal device to shake down the American tourist.

Public Library

How Attitude Toward Fiction May be Fixed

By H. H. BOND, Cambridge, Mass.



HE attitude of public libraries toward fiction must be determined by the purpose for which they have been established and maintained. This purpose, as recorded in their deeds of gift, in the charters under whose authority they act, and in the published reports of their trustees, is public education. The charter of a typical Massachusetts library gives as the purpose of its incorporation, "the diffusion of knowledge and promotion of intellectual improvement." Trustees uniformly base appeals for public support upon the educational value of their libraries.

The promotion of education was uppermost in the mind of the man who inaugurated the movement for the general establishment of public libraries in Massachusetts, and formed the basis of his appeal for state encouragement. In 1839 Horace Mann devoted the annual report of the board of education to this question. He showed that there were only fifteen free town libraries in Massachusetts, and that few books in them were of educational value. He deprecated the evils of excessive novel reading, and insisted upon school libraries which should "cultivate the germs of intelligence, benevolence and truth."

Through his influence the general court passed a series of statutes which culminated in the act of 1851, granting to every city and town of the commonwealth authority to establish and maintain a public library in the interest of public education.

What the state understands by public education appears in the preambles and statutes of Massachusetts relating thereto. The first such statute, May, 1642, declared that "Forasmuch as the good education of children is of singular behoof to any commonwealth, the selectmen of every town shall see that children are taught perfectly to read the English tongue."

Before 1780 the views of Massachusetts had so expanded that the following article was inserted in the state constitution: "Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties, . . . it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates in all future periods of this commonwealth to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, . . . to encourage private and public institutions . . . for the promotion of agriculture, arts, sciences, trades, manufactures and a natural history of the country; to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, charity, industry and frugality; honesty and punctuality; sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people."

So long, therefore, as this conception of the scope of public education prevails, and so long as the promotion of such education is recognized as their legitimate purpose, the ideal attitude of our public libraries toward all fiction which tends to accomplish this great design must be one of friendliness and welcome.



The people who are kicking against monopolies are mostly those who think they are not in them. Nearly everybody except the tramp, probably 80 per cent of the entire population, men, women and children, are to some degree, directly or indirectly, interested in big business, corporations or trusts.

Anyone having as much as a single dollar deposited in open account in a national bank is indirectly interested in the success, stability and profits of big business of some kind.

Bankers cannot afford to pay rent and salaries and accept and enter our deposits on their and our books, safeguard and be responsible for our money, honor and keep account of the checks we draw, unless they lend out, for profit, the money we deposit to people doing big business.

The banks must also buy with surplus funds not loaned out the bonds of corporations and trusts. In the case of savings banks and safe deposit companies, where a small interest is allowed depositors, the necessity of these institutions loaning out our money or investing the surplus is still greater.

So that we are more or less interested and investors in big business, corporations or trusts, directly or indirectly, to the amount of our savings and deposits, be it more or less.

If our savings are small we are interested in big business indirectly through the banks where we deposit.

If we are of large means we buy the stocks and bonds of the big corporations outright. So that we are all in the same boat and there is no question of morals involved.

If we kick and hammer big business we are kicking and hammering ourselves.

Making Friends With Various Animals

By H. J. HILL

I believe that many of our household animals can understand our conversation; and comprehend much of the daily talk between men. I have a friend in the country who is a great hunter of foxes and rabbits, and when I visited him some time ago I found him in the act of cleaning his hunting gun.

I said to him, "Are you getting ready to go hunting?"

"No," he replied, "I am going to shoot Bob here. The dog is getting too old and stiff for hunting."

The dog until then had been lying on the floor, seemingly unconcerned, but hardly had his master announced that he was about to shoot Bob when the animal jumped up, whining and crawling behind the skirts of the hunter's wife.

The woman had all she could do to comfort the badly frightened animal.

I believe that we underestimate the intelligence of animals and the value of their affection.

If you make friends of dogs or cats or birds, they are always your friends. They study and know you better than you know them.

You need never regret or be disappointed in having bestowed your kindness on these friends.

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PURE WINES AND LIQUORS Country produce received daily. Our stock of Plain and Fancy Groceries embraces everything to be had in this line. We hold largely in United States bonded warehouse and carry in stock various brands of the best

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In Hofbrau beer you have the ideal food beverage. The next time you are thirsty, try a glass. If you like it, have us send you a case.

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Cherry Cough Syrup

mends health rants and prevents raw throats. You are not really wise unless you are using this valuable cough remedy for either new or old coughs.

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